IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Ecker, et al.

Serial No.: 10/660,998 Group No.: 1637

Filed: 09/12/03 Examiner: S. Chunduru Entitled: **Methods For Rapid Forensic Analysis of Mitochondrial DNA**

and Characterization of Mitochondrial DNA Heteroplasmy

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

EFS Web Filed

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Examiner:

The following communication is responsive to the Office Action mailed September 18, 2008, due on or before December 18, 2008. A request for a three-month extension of time accompanies this response, together with appropriate fee. Applicants believe that no additional fee is due at this time. The Commissioner is, however, hereby authorized to charge any required fees to Attorney Deposit Account No. 50-4302, referencing Attorney Docket No.: ISIS-10468.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS begins on page 2 of this document.

REMARKS begin on page 10 of this document.